GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2747
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Quality of Higher Education
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the quality of higher education and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the action taken by the Government to protect the quality of higher education;
(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a number of institutions are functioning in the private sector without satisfying the criteria as per the rules;
(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
(e) whether the Government proposes to change the criteria for sanctioning financial assistance to States for improving the quality of higher education system, if so, the details thereof; and
(f) whether the Government proposes to unify the curriculum of higher education throughout the country, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The Central Government has launched several initiatives viz. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Uchchtar Avishkar Yojna (UAY), Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in the field of education for the qualitative development of education in the country. Under the NIRF, Educational Institutions will be ranked by an independent ranking Agency for which objective criteria has been developed. They shall be ranked separately in fields such as Engineering, Management, Pharma, Architecture etc. Under the IMPRINT initiative, the Government has taken the initiative to address major engineering challenges through the collaborative efforts of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Under this, a roadmap is finalised to pursue engineering challenges in ten technology domains that have large social impact. The objectives of UAY scheme are to promote innovation in IITs addressing issues of manufacturing industries; to spur innovative mindset; to coordinate action between academia & industry and to strengthen labs & research facilities. GIAN scheme is for facilitating partnership between Higher Educational Institutions of the country and other countries. The scheme is aimed at tapping international talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs.
The Central Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for strategic funding and reforms in the State Higher Education sector.
The University Grants Commission (UGC) undertakes maintenance of standards in teaching and research and quality assurance in Universities, Deemed to be Universities and Colleges through the following mechanisms, namely: framing regulations and schemes and; disbursing grants to the eligible institutions. The UGC has notified several regulations with the objective of sustenance and improvement in the quality of higher education and for undertaking academic reforms. The regulations are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/UGC-Regulations.aspx. In order to encourage research and development in the country, UGC has laid out schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to institutions of higher education as well as faculty members working therein to undertake quality research covering areas of knowledge across disciplines including revival & promotion of indigenous languages. These schemes are at http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/XII-Plan-Guidelines.aspx .
The UGC has also informed that it has launched the following schemes for making higher education relevant to the needs of the society and industry, namely: Career Oriented Courses (COC), Community Colleges (CC), introduction of degrees in vocational subjects and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood (KAUSHAL) centres in line with

National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF). The UGC, through collaboration with National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT), has undertaken e-content development of post graduate programmes.

(c) & (d): Private Universities are regulated by the UGC as per provisions contained in the UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities), Regulations, 2003. These private universities are inspected by the UGC with the help of concerned Statutory Council(s). The status of inspection and the inspection reports of existing 228 private universities are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/privatuniversity.aspx . Deemed Universities are set up and regulated by the UGC on the basis of UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010.

(e): The ratio of sharing between the Central Government and the general category States is 60:40 and 90:10 for special category States. This ratio of sharing has been modified recently in December, 2015.

(f): In an effort to support the Universities for implementation of the Choice Based Credit System, which offers choice to students in taking up courses for their programmes of study, the UGC has designed syllabi templates for 89 mainline and 18 specialised courses after wide consultations. The templates are primarily focussed on semesterisation and making it modular with stress on progressive modulation. The UGC has given the option to the universities to change the syllabus to the extent of 30% keeping in view the expertise of the universities in a subject domain.

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